

REMARKS

Claims 43-58, 60 and 61 are pending in the application, with claims 43, 50 and 54 being independent. Claims 39-42 and 59 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by way of this amendment.

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's allowance of claims 43-58, 60 and 61.

Claims 39 and 59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shimizu (U.S. Patent No. 5,217,910), and claims 40-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimizu. Without conceding the merits of these rejections, claims 39-42 and 59 have been canceled to place the application in for allowance.

The fee in the amount of \$130 for a one-month extension of time is being paid concurrently herewith on the electronic filing system (EFS) by way of deposit account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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